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(54) **MOBILE TERMINAL AND HINGE MECHANISM**

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CPC combination set(s) only.
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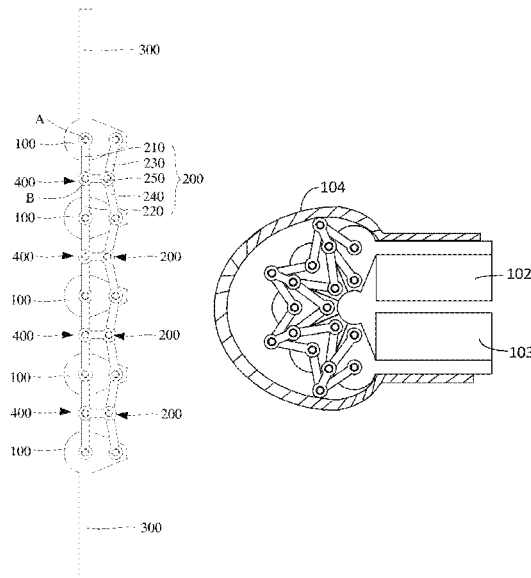
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A hinge mechanism includes at least two shafts arranged in a row, a linkage mechanism and two connecting parts. The two connecting parts are fixedly connected to two shafts on the outermost sides, respectively. Two adjacent shafts are connected by the linkage mechanism. The linkage mechanism includes a first linkage and a second linkage. One of the two adjacent shafts is hinged to a first end of the first linkage, the other one is hinged to a first end of the second linkage, and a second end of the first linkage is hinged to a second end of the second linkage. When hinge points where the first linkage and the second linkage are respectively hinged to the two adjacent shafts and a hinge point between the first linkage and the second linkage are in a same straight line, there is a gap between the two adjacent shafts.

17 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



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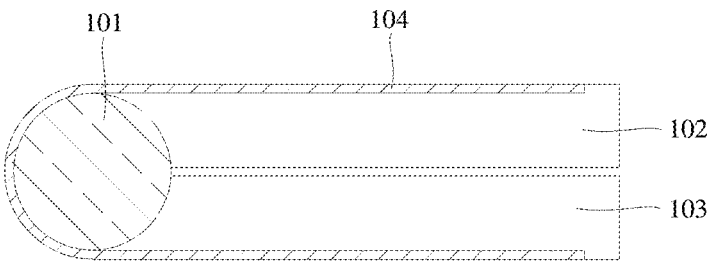


FIG. 1

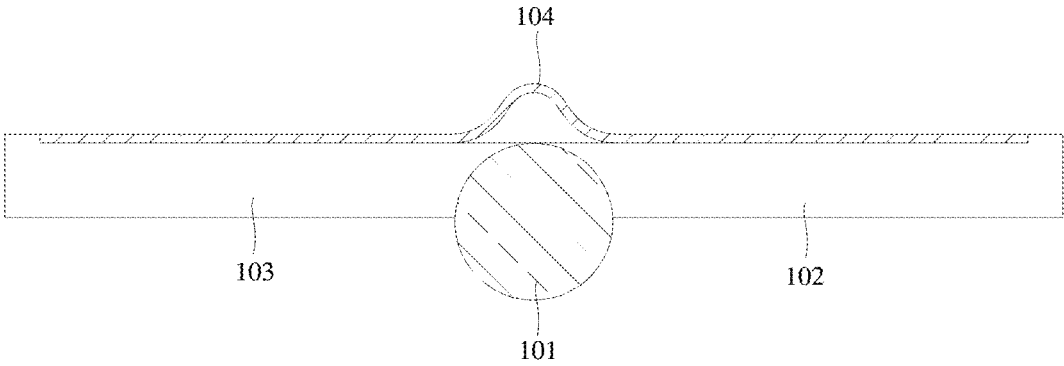


FIG. 2

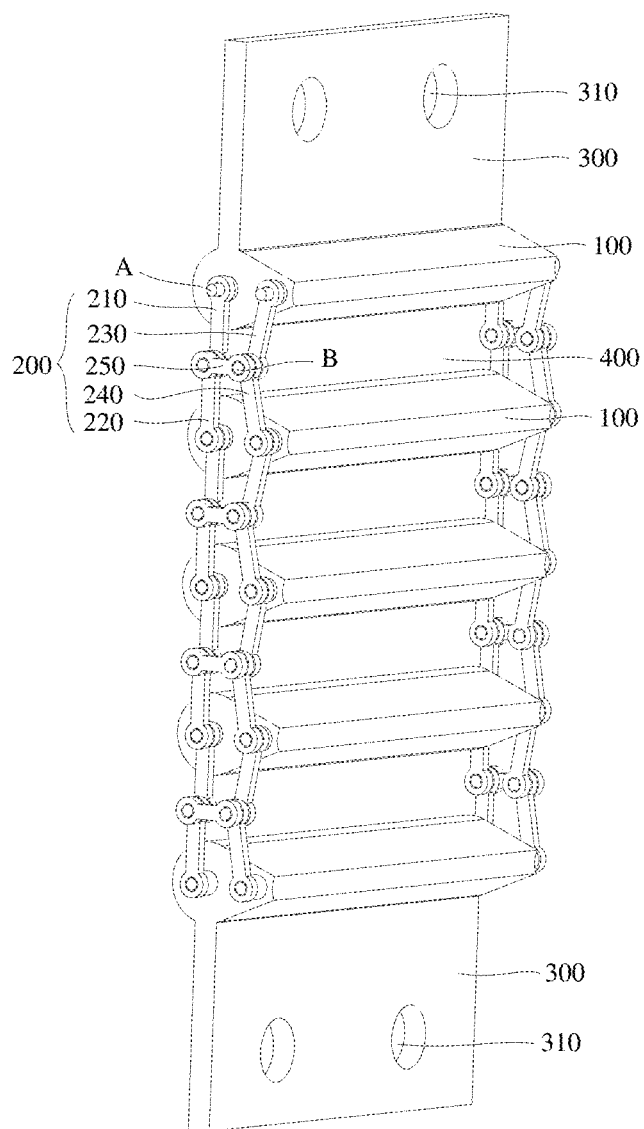


FIG. 3

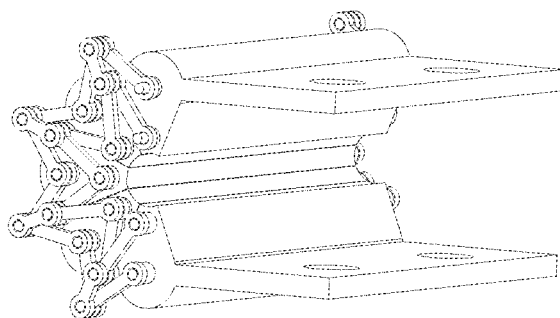


FIG. 4

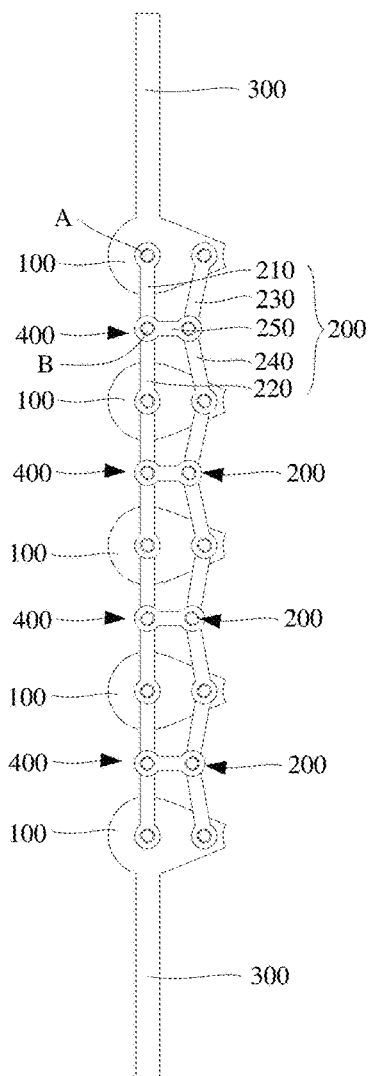


FIG. 5

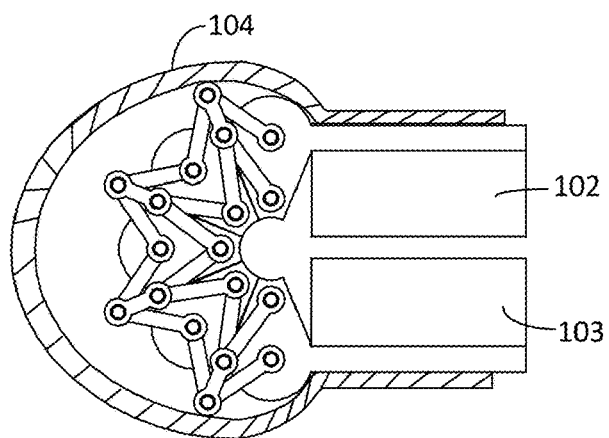


FIG. 6

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MOBILE TERMINAL AND HINGE MECHANISM**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of PCT Application No. PCT/CN2019/105596, filed on Sep. 12, 2019, which claims priority to Chinese Patent Application No. 201811071214.2 filed on Sep. 13, 2018, both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present disclosure relates to the field of mobile terminal technologies, and in particular, to a mobile terminal and a hinge mechanism.

BACKGROUND

At present, large screen mobile terminal is getting more and more popular. How to increase the screen area of mobile terminal on the premise that the overall dimension of mobile terminal is preset is an important research and development direction for current designers.

SUMMARY

A hinge mechanism comprises at least two shafts arranged in a row, a linkage mechanism and two connecting parts which are fixedly connected to the two shafts on the outermost side respectively. Two adjacent shafts are connected by means of the linkage mechanism. The linkage mechanism comprises a first linkage and a second linkage. One of the two adjacent shafts is hinged to a first end of the first linkage, and the other shaft is hinged to a first end of the second linkage, and a second end of the first linkage is hinged to a second end of the second linkage. When the hinge point where the first linkage and the second linkage are respectively hinged to two adjacent shafts and the hinge point of the first linkage and the second linkage are in the same straight line, a gap is formed between the two adjacent shafts.

A mobile terminal comprises a flexible screen, a first shell, a second shell and a hinge mechanism described above. The first shell is fixedly connected to a connecting part and the second shell is fixedly connected to the other connecting part. The flexible screen is installed in the mounting area formed by the first shell, the second shell and the hinge mechanism.

The technical solution adopted in the present disclosure can achieve the following beneficial effects:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings illustrated herein are provided to further understand the present disclosure and form a part of the present disclosure. The exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure and the descriptions thereof are used to explain the present disclosure and do not constitute an improper limitation on the present disclosure. In the accompanying drawings:

FIG. 1 is a schematic structural diagram of a mobile terminal in a folded state provided by related technology;

FIG. 2 is a schematic structural diagram of a mobile terminal shown in FIG. 1 in the unfolded state;

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FIG. 3 is a stereoscopic view of a hinge mechanism in unfolded state as disclosed in this embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 4 is a stereoscopic view of a hinge mechanism in folded state as disclosed in this embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 5 is a schematic plane structural diagram of a hinge mechanism in unfolded state as disclosed in this embodiment of the present disclosure;

FIG. 6 is a schematic plane structural diagram of a hinge mechanism in folded state as disclosed in this embodiment of the present disclosure;

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MARKS IN THE DRAWING

101-a shaft; **102-a** first shell, **103-a** second shell, **104-a** flexible screen;

100-a shaft, **200-a** linkage mechanism, **210-a** first linkage, **220-a** second linkage, **230-a** third linkage, **240-a** fourth linkage, **250-a** fifth linkage, **300-a** connecting part, **310-a** connecting hole, **400**-clearance, **A-a** hinge shaft, **B-a** hinge shaft.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

In order to make the objective, technical solution and advantages of the present disclosure clearer, the technical solution of the present disclosure will be described clearly and completely with reference to the specific embodiments of the present disclosure and the corresponding drawings. Apparently, the described embodiments are some but not all of the embodiments of the present disclosure. All other embodiments obtained by a person of ordinary skill in the art based on the embodiments of the present disclosure without creative efforts shall fall within the protection scope of the present disclosure.

The embodiments of the present disclosure are described below in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Mobile terminal manufacturers usually obtain large screen by increasing the screen-to-body ratio of mobile terminal. As a result, mobile terminals gradually develop towards the direction of ultra-narrow frame or even full screen mobile terminals. However, as the amount of functions continues to increase, more and more electronic devices are integrated into mobile terminals. The pursuit of reducing the frame width by adjusting the position of electronic devices or reduce their volume has reached the ultimate, which makes it more and more difficult to increase the screen-to-body ratio of mobile terminal.

In this case, more and more mobile terminals obtain large screen by using foldable screen. In order to improve the display effect, a one-piece flexible screen is used as the foldable screen of mobile terminals in related technology. The folding of flexible screen is realized through the bending of the flexible screen.

FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 are schematic structural diagrams of a common mobile terminal with flexible screen in folded and unfolded states. In the mobile terminals as shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, the first shell **102** and the second shell **103** are rotated by a shaft **101** connected with the shells. A flexible screen **104** is partially arranged on the first shell **102**, and its other part is arranged on the second shell **103** after crossing the shaft **101**.

Due to the existence of the shaft **101**, the distance between the first shell **102** and the second shell **103** in the unfolded

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state is smaller than the distance between the two in the folded state. As a result, when the mobile terminal is unfolded, the area of the flexible screen **104** and the shaft **101** is raised, resulting in the uneven surface of the flexible screen **104** and affecting the display effect.

As shown in FIG. 3 to FIG. 6, this embodiment of the present disclosure discloses a hinge mechanism, which can replace a shaft **101** described in the background, and realize the rotatable connection between the first shell **102** and the second shell **103**, and folding of the mobile terminal, and the flexible screen **104**.

The hinge mechanism disclosed in this embodiment of the present disclosure composes at least two shafts **100** arranged in a row, a linkage mechanism **200** and two connecting parts **300**.

At least two shafts **100** are arranged in a row to form a shaft row. For example, the axes of the two adjacent shafts **100** are parallel. The linkage mechanism **200** is configured to connect the two adjacent shafts **100**. The connecting parts **300** are configured to connect the hinge mechanism with other parts. The hinge mechanism is applied in the mobile terminal, and two connecting parts **300** can be connected with each of the first shell **102** and the second shell **103**.

In the embodiment of the present disclosure, at least two shafts **100** are arranged in a row, and two adjacent shafts **100** are connected by the linkage mechanism **200**. The linkage mechanism **200** may comprise a first linkage **210**, a second linkage **220** and two shafts **100** connected with each other. One of the shafts is hinged to the first end of the first linkage **210**, and the other is hinged to the first end of the second linkage **220**. In this case, the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220** can rotate relative to two adjacent shafts **100**.

The second end of the first linkage **210** is hinged to the second end of the second linkage **220**. As the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220** can be hinged to the two adjacent shafts **100** respectively, and the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220** are hinged to each other, the integral component formed by two adjacent shafts **100** and the linkage mechanism **200** connecting the two shafts can be bent and deformed through the rotation of related parts.

When the hinge point where the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220** are respectively hinged to two adjacent shafts **100** and the hinge point of the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220** are in the same straight line, there is a gap **400** between the two adjacent shafts **100**. In this case, the first end of the first linkage **210** and the first end of the second linkage **220** may be considered to extend in the opposite direction, as shown in FIG. 3 and FIG. 5. In this state, the hinge mechanism is extended to its longest length.

Because the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220** are hinged, different intersection angles between the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220** may generate different distances between two adjacent shafts **100**. It can be seen that in this embodiment, the distance between two adjacent shafts **100** can be adjusted by the linkage mechanism **200**, so that the length of the entire hinge mechanism can be adjusted. When the first end of the first linkage **210** and the first end of the second linkage **220** extend in the opposite direction, the hinge mechanism is longest, as shown in FIG. 3 and FIG. 5. When the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220** rotate relative to each other till the two adjacent shafts **100** come into contact with each other, the hinge mechanism is shortest, as shown in FIG. 4 and FIG. 6.

It can be seen from the above description that, operators can bend the entire hinge mechanism disclosed in the present disclosure to deform the linkage mechanism **200**,

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and finally shorten the hinge mechanism by reducing the width of the gap **400** between two adjacent shafts **100**. When the hinge mechanism is pulled, the deformed linkage mechanism **200** can lengthen the hinge mechanism by increasing the width of the gap **400** between two adjacent shafts **100**. As can be seen, the hinge mechanism disclosed in this embodiment of the present disclosure can change its length when it is bent or straight. Mobile terminal with such a hinge mechanism can undoubtedly avoid the problem of raised flexible screen **104** when it is unfolded.

In order to improve the deformation stability of the linkage mechanism **200**, in the hinge mechanism disclosed in this embodiment of the present disclosure, the linkage mechanism **200** can also comprise a third linkage **230** and a fourth linkage **240**. In the two adjacent shafts **100**, one is hinged to the first end of the third linkage **230**, and the other is hinged to the first end of the fourth linkage **240**. The second end of the third linkage **230** is hinged to the second end of the fourth linkage **240**.

In this case, the linkage mechanism **200** comprises more linkages. The third linkage **230** and the fourth linkage **240** can work together with the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220** to adjust the length of hinge mechanism, without affecting the operation of the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220**. Of course, it can also be considered as a redundant design. With the structure, when the first link **210** and the second link **220** fail, the third linkage **230** and the fourth linkage **240** can still realize the normal operation of the hinge mechanism. Of course, this design can also avoid the problem of too flexible deformation between the two adjacent shafts **100** that are merely connected by the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220**.

The first linkage component is formed by the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220**, and the second linkage component is formed by the third linkage **230** and the fourth linkage **240**. To realize more coordinated deformation of the first linkage component and the second linkage component during work, in an optional scheme, the hinge mechanism disclosed in this embodiment of the present disclosure may also comprise a fifth linkage **250**. The fifth linkage **250** is connected between the first linkage component and the second linkage component, the first end of the fifth linkage **250** may be hinged to the hinged point of the third linkage **230** and the fourth linkage **240**, and the second end of the fifth linkage **250** can be hinged to the hinged point of the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220**. The fifth linkage **250** plays a connecting role and can easily realize a more consistent deformation trend of the first linkage component and the second linkage component.

In an optional scheme, the third linkage **230** and the fourth linkage **240** may be symmetrically arranged along the axis of the fifth linkage **250**. Similarly, the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220** may also be symmetrically arranged with the fifth linkage **250** as the center. The symmetrical distribution manner is undoubtedly more conducive to the more stable deformation of the linkage mechanism **200**.

In the embodiment of the present disclosure, the shaft **100** can be an ordinary cylindrical shaft or other shaped shaft and its specific shape is not limited in the embodiment. As shown in FIG. 3 to FIG. 6, in a specific embodiment, the shafts **100** are camshafts that include convex portion, and the convex portion of each camshaft is located on the same side of the shaft row formed by at least two shafts **100**. The shafts **100** are camshafts that can make the combination between adjacent shafts **100** more compact when the hinge mechanism is folded, and are conducive to improving the stability of the hinge mechanism in the folded state. In the optional

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scheme, when the hinge mechanism is in a bending state (as shown in FIG. 6), the convex portions of two adjacent shafts **100** abut on each other. Undoubtedly hinge mechanism in bending state can therefore achieve the best bending effect, and make the entire hinge mechanism more compact and stable in bending state.

In the optional scheme, the first end of the third linkage **230** and the first end of the fourth linkage **240** are hinged to the end surface of each of the convex portion of the two adjacent shafts **100**, the first end of the first linkage **210** and the first end of the second linkage **220** are hinged to the center of each of the end surfaces of the two adjacent shafts **100**. In this case, there is enough distance between the first linkage **210** and the third linkage **230** as well as between the second linkage **220** and the fourth linkage **240**, which is more conducive to the deformation of the entire linkage mechanism **200**. The length of the fifth linkages **250** is less than the distance between two hinged points in the shaft **100**. In this case, it is easier to realize a more consistent deformation trend of the first linkage component and the second linkage component.

As described above, a connecting part **300** is fixedly connected with a shaft **100**. In order to reduce assembly workload and improve the strength of the components, in the optional scheme, a connecting part **300** and the shaft **100** connected with it can be an integrated structure.

The connecting part **300** can be provided with a connecting piece or a connecting structure. For example, the connecting part **300** may be provided with a connecting hole **310**. A variety of connecting part **300** structures can be used. In a specific embodiment, the connecting part **300** may be a connecting plate.

Hinge joint can be realized in many forms. For example, a hinge shaft A can be fixed to the end surface of the shaft **100**, and the shaft **100** can be matched with the hinge holes in the first linkage **210**, the second linkage **220**, the third linkage **230** or the fourth linkage **240** through the hinge shaft A, realizing a rotation fit. Similarly, rotation fit is realized respectively between the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220**, between the fifth linkage **250** and each of the first linkage **210** and the second linkage **220**, between the third linkage **230** and the fourth linkage **240**, and between the fifth linkage **250** and each of the third linkage **230** and the fourth linkage **240** through the through hole sheathed on the hinge shaft B.

Based on the hinge mechanism disclosed in this embodiment of the present disclosure, this embodiment of the present disclosure discloses a mobile terminal comprising a flexible screen **104**, a first shell **102**, a second shell **103** and a hinge mechanism described above. The first shell **102** is fixedly connected to a connecting part **300**, and the second shell **103** is fixedly connected with the other connecting part **300**. The flexible screen **104** is installed in the mounting area formed by the first shell **102**, the second shell **103** and the hinge mechanism.

A mobile terminal disclosed in this embodiment of the present disclosure may be a mobile phone, a tablet computer, an e-book reader, a wearable device or other mobile terminal with flexible screen. In the embodiment of the present disclosure, the specific type of mobile terminals is not limited.

The above embodiments of the present disclosure mainly describe the differences between various embodiments. As long as the different optimization features of the various embodiments are not contradictory, the various embodi-

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ments can be combined to form a better embodiment. Considering the brevity of the text, details are not described herein again.

The foregoing descriptions are merely specific embodiments of the present disclosure, but are not intended to limit the present disclosure. For those skilled in the art, the present disclosure may have various modifications and variations. Any modification, equivalent replacement and improvement made within the spirit and principle of the present disclosure shall fall within the protection scope of claims in the present disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. A hinge mechanism comprising at least two shafts arranged in a row, a linkage mechanism and two connecting parts, wherein the two connecting parts are fixedly connected to two shafts on outermost sides, respectively; two adjacent shafts are connected by the linkage mechanism; the linkage mechanism comprises a first linkage and a second linkage; one of the two adjacent shafts is hinged to a first end of the first linkage, another shaft of the two adjacent shafts is hinged to a first end of the second linkage, and a second end of the first linkage is hinged to a second end of the second linkage; and when hinge points where the first linkage and the second linkage are respectively hinged to the two adjacent shafts and a hinge point between the first linkage and the second linkage are in a same straight line, there is a gap between the two adjacent shafts;

wherein the shafts are camshafts, and convex portions of the camshafts are located on a same side of the row in which the at least two shafts are arranged.

2. The hinge mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the linkage mechanism further comprises a third linkage and a fourth linkage, one of the two adjacent shafts is hinged to a first end of the third linkage, another shaft of the two adjacent shafts is hinged to a first end of the fourth linkage, and a second end of the third linkage is hinged to a second end of the fourth linkage.

3. The hinge mechanism according to claim 2, wherein the linkage mechanism further comprises a fifth linkage; the first linkage and the second linkage constitute a first linkage component, and the third linkage and the fourth linkage constitute a second linkage component; the fifth linkage is connected between the first linkage component and the second linkage component, a first end of the fifth linkage is hinged to a hinged point between the third linkage and the fourth linkage, and a second end of the fifth linkage is hinged to the hinge point between the first linkage and the second linkage.

4. The hinge mechanism according to claim 3, wherein the third linkage and the fourth linkage, as well as the first linkage and the second linkage are symmetrically arranged along an axis of the fifth linkage.

5. The hinge mechanism according to claim 4, wherein the first end of the third linkage and the first end of the fourth linkage are hinged to end surfaces of convex portions of the two adjacent shafts, respectively; and the first end of the first linkage and the first end of the second linkage are hinged to centers of end surfaces of the two adjacent shafts, respectively.

6. The hinge mechanism according to claim 5, wherein when the hinge mechanism is in a bending state, the convex portions of the two adjacent shafts abut on each other.

7. The hinge mechanism according to claim 1, wherein each of the connecting parts is provided with at least two connecting holes.

8. The hinge mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the connecting parts are connecting plates.

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9. A mobile terminal, comprising a flexible screen, a first shell, a second shell and the hinge mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the first shell is fixedly connected to a connecting part, the second shell is fixedly connected to another connecting part, and the flexible screen is disposed in a mounting area formed by the first shell, the second shell and the hinge mechanism.

10. The mobile terminal according to claim 9, wherein the mobile terminal is a mobile phone, a tablet computer, an e-book reader or a wearable device.

11. The mobile terminal according to claim 9, wherein the linkage mechanism further comprises a third linkage and a fourth linkage, one of the two adjacent shafts is hinged to a first end of the third linkage, another shaft of the two adjacent shafts is hinged to a first end of the fourth linkage, and a second end of the third linkage is hinged to a second end of the fourth linkage.

12. The mobile terminal according to claim 11, wherein the linkage mechanism further comprises a fifth linkage; the first linkage and the second linkage constitute a first linkage component, and the third linkage and the fourth linkage constitute a second linkage component; the fifth linkage is connected between the first linkage component and the second linkage component, a first end of the fifth linkage is

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hinged to a hinged point between the third linkage and the fourth linkage, and a second end of the fifth linkage is hinged to the hinge point between the first linkage and the second linkage.

13. The mobile terminal according to claim 12, wherein the third linkage and the fourth linkage, as well as the first linkage and the second linkage are symmetrically arranged along an axis of the fifth linkage.

14. The mobile terminal according to claim 13, wherein the first end of the third linkage and the first end of the fourth linkage are hinged to end surfaces of convex portions of the two adjacent shafts, respectively; and the first end of the first linkage and the first end of the second linkage are hinged to centers of end surfaces of the two adjacent shafts, respectively.

15. The mobile terminal according to claim 14, wherein when the hinge mechanism is in a bending state, the convex portions of the two adjacent shafts abut on each other.

16. The mobile terminal according to claim 9, wherein each of the connecting parts is provided with at least two connecting holes.

17. The mobile terminal according to claim 9, wherein the connecting parts are connecting plates.

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